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Jay M. Gellert
President and CEO

November 25, 2003

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The Honorable William M. Thomas
Chairman
Ways and Means Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Thomas:

I would like to express my appreciation for your leadership in crafting the conference report to H.R.1, the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement and Modernization Act of 2003. While the process has been complex and highly charged, the resulting legislation will give America's 40 million seniors and disabled a more modernized Medicare program that offers improved access to prescription drug coverage and beneficiaries a broader choice of health care options.

On behalf of Health Net, Inc., which serves over 175,000 Medicare+Choice beneficiaries across the nation, including more than 7,000 residing in your district, I applaud your efforts in helping to deliver a bill that helps stabilize the Medicare+Choice program. Not only will these provisions result in improved health care benefits for our beneficiaries today but allows private sector choices to remain a viable option for beneficiaries tomorrow. We look forward to the opportunity to continue serving our nation's beneficiaries and the disabled with the enhanced benefits they need and deserve.

Again, thank you for your leadership and support of the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement and Modernization Act. We applaud your commitment to America's 40 million seniors and disabled to modernize Medicare in order to give seniors private plan choices and a prescription drug benefit.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Jay Gellert'.

Jay Gellert
President and CEO